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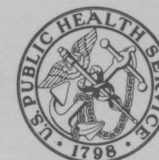
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Louis W. Sullivan, MD, Secretary



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
James O. Mason, MD, DrPH  
Assistant Secretary for Health

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change in the total numbers of referrals. Currently, the NCEP Laboratory Standardization Panel recommends that laboratory bias should be less than 5 percent at most and ideally should be less than 3 percent (14). The importance of this recommendation cannot be overstated.

In summary, the new NCEP guidelines for cholesterol screening function well as referral criteria in the mass screening setting. Persons referred for further testing, using the NCEP guidelines, are at significantly higher coronary heart disease risk than those who would have been referred using previous guidelines. In order for the NCEP guidelines to function well in this way, however, it is essential for public screening programs to collect and use risk factor information, in addition to cholesterol levels in making referral decisions. Collecting information on other risk factors offers public health programs an opportunity to educate or to intervene on other important problems, such as cigarette smoking. When practical, and when accurate laboratory determinations are available, testing may include HDL cholesterol levels in order to avoid high-HDL referral errors and to identify persons at higher risk than their total cholesterol levels would indicate because of very low HDL levels.

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## Equipment

- A. Hitachi 705 random access blood chemistry analyzer, distributed by Boehringer Mannheim Diagnostics, 9115 Hague Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46250.

## COMING—MINORITY HEALTH

In the November-December *Public Health Reports*—an issue devoted to the health problems of minority populations in the United States. The issue features an article by Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan, MD, and an editorial by James O. Mason, MD, Dr PH, Assistant Secretary for Health.

Other papers describe projects underway to help minorities—projects to combat smoking by urban youth, hypertension, breast and cervical cancer, drug use by youth, homicide, infant mortality, AIDS, and tuberculosis.

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should encourage continued evaluation of the effect of parental exposure to pesticides (and to a lesser extent, paternal exposure to ionizing radiation) on pregnancy outcomes, especially stillbirth and delivery of small-for-gestational-age infants.

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# Osteoporosis

- affects nearly 20 million Americans, mostly older women
- results in an estimated 1.3 million bone fractures each year
- costs upwards of \$7 billion a year in health care and lost productivity



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*Public Health Reports* announces the forthcoming publication of the Proceedings of the Special Topic Conference on Osteoporosis, one of a series of conferences on women's health, sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration. The proceedings will be a supplement to the September-October issue of *Public Health Reports*.

The conference emphasized prevention measures that can be applied throughout the public health community to assist women to adopt healthful behaviors at important phases of their lives. Those at risk for osteoporosis can take active steps to prevent the condition or minimize its severity. Adopting and maintaining healthful behaviors that can help prevent osteoporosis is a lifetime goal for every woman that requires consistent collaboration and communication between her and her health care providers.

The conference, held October 30, 1987, at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, gathered scientific and medical experts to

- establish a baseline of information on osteoporosis prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to be applied to clinical practice and the development of educational messages for women
- focus attention on known risk factors associated with osteoporosis, as well as intervention measures that can be taken at different phases of a woman's life to prevent or minimize the impact
- help health care providers, health educators, and health writers understand some of the issues related to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis

- improve communications and strengthen collaborative relationships among members of the public health community involved in osteoporosis prevention and treatment

Among the topics of conference papers are

- osteoporosis risk factors
- bone mass and bone loss measurement, fracture risk, and screening
- nutrition and exercise, the calcium controversy, and the concept of osteoporosis as a pediatric disease
- prevention and treatment, long-term estrogen replacement, alternative strategies, and hormonal therapy
- management and education, and patient counseling for prevention
- research advances

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